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CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A trash container lid for covering a trash container, the trash container having a lip, comprising:

a top,

an outer wall;

a series of steps surrounding the top, the series of steps and the top forming an enclosure, the series of steps including a lower riser substantially covering the lip and the lower riser in contact with the lip, the series of steps also including a middle riser; and

a plurality of ridges extending across the top and down the series of steps;

a frame for supporting the trash container lid, the frame contained within the enclosure, the frame having a hinge for attachment to a container, the hinge extending through the outer wall;

a longitudinal ridge extending longitudinally on the top from the middle riser to the top;

a lock hole for receiving a lock;

lock hole bracket for reinforcing the lock hole; and

a handle, the handle integral with the frame, the handle extending through the outer wall;

2.-6. (cancelled)

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7. (currently amended) The trash container lid of claim ~~1~~ 6 where the lower riser and the lip form a gap, and the lower riser is arranged so that the gap between the lower riser and the lip will have a gap of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

8.-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) The trash container lid of claim ~~17~~ 1 where the plurality of longitudinal ridges extends over at least a portion of the steps.

19. (original) The trash container lid of claim 18 where the frame is attached to the steps.

20. (currently amended) A trash container system comprising:

a trash container;

a trash container opening;

a lid, the lid moveable to cover the trash container opening, the lid having a shape and size commensurate with the trash container opening; ~~and~~

a plurality of ribs transversely extending across the lid; and

a tubular frame mounted within the lid.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The trash container system of claim ~~21~~ 29 where the lid further comprises a plurality of longitudinal ribs extending longitudinally along the lid.

23. (currently amended) The trash container system of claim ~~20~~ 22 where the trash container has a lip, the lip having a lip height and a lip circumference, and the lid has a lower riser, the lid having a closed position, and when the lid is in the closed position, the lower riser covers the lip height for a substantial portion of the lip circumference.

24. (original) The trash container system of claim 23 where the lower riser is snugly seated against the lip when the lid is in the closed position.

25. (currently amended) The trash container system of claim ~~24~~ 20 further comprising a ~~lid~~ handle, the ~~lid~~ handle integral with the tubular frame and extending through the lid.

26. (original) The trash container system of claim 25 further comprising a hinge, the hinge integral with the tubular frame and extending through the lid, the hinge being rotationally attached to the trash container.

27. (original) The trash container system of claim 26 further comprising a plurality of hinges, the plurality of hinges integral with the tubular frame and extending through the lid, the plurality of hinges being rotationally attached to the trash container.

28. (original) The trash container system of claim 27 further comprising a lock hole, the lock hole extending through the lid, the lock hole arranged to receive a lock for fastening the lid to the trash container.

29. (original) The trash container system of claim 28 where the lock hole is surrounded by a bracket.

30. (new) A trash container assembly for enclosing a trash container, the trash container having a trash container opening, comprising:

a lid, the lid moveable to cover the trash container opening, the lid having a shape and size commensurate with the trash container opening; and

a tubular frame mounted within the lid.

31. (new) The trash container assembly of claim 30 further comprising:

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a plurality of ribs transversely extending across the lid.

32. (new) The trash container assembly of claim 31 further comprising a lid handle, the lid handle integral with the tubular frame and extending through the lid.

33. (new) The trash container assembly of claim 32 further comprising a hinge, the hinge integral with the tubular frame and extending through the lid, the hinge being rotationally attached to the trash container.

34. (new) The trash container assembly of claim 33 further comprising a plurality of hinges, the plurality of hinges integral with the tubular frame and extending through the lid, the plurality of hinges being rotationally attached to the trash container.

35. (new) The trash container assembly of claim 34 further comprising a lock hole, the lock hole extending through the lid, the lock hole arranged to receive a lock for fastening the lid to a trash container.

36. (new) The trash container assembly of claim 35 where the lock hole is surrounded by a bracket.